

The Times-Dispatch

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THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 1903.

RAILROADS AND THE CONSTITUTION.

No one who takes the trouble to read the debates of the Constitutional Convention on the enacting of a free railroad law would believe it possible that the conclusion and wisdom of that body as shown in sections 154 and 156 (a) of the Constitution would have been given practical effect by any such law as House bill 102. The Times-Dispatch does not intend to argue the question of a free railroad law at this time, but we do wish to point out the fact that it was the sense of the Constitutional Convention that such a law ought to be enacted, and that it was the distinct effort of that body to so write the Constitution as to give Virginia a free railroad law forever. By the term free railroad law we mean such legislative enactments as will enable any body of citizens to acquire a charter for a railroad from any point to any point within the State.

The right to build such a road under general enactments was not meant to depend upon the will of this or that individual or tribunal, it being the obvious intention of the Constitutional Convention to prescribe the enactment of a general law which would give to all persons so desiring the right to build railroads. Now, how has this intention been carried out? The Constitution says, section 154:

"The creation of corporations and the extension and amendment of charters (whether heretofore or hereafter granted) shall be provided for by general laws, and no charter shall be granted, amended or extended by special act, nor shall authority in such matters be conferred upon any tribunal or officer, except to ascertain whether the applicants have by complying with the requirements of law entitled themselves to the charter, amendment or extension applied for, and to issue or refuse the same accordingly."

But House bill 102 in its chapter on railroads, which is presumably intended to make this provision effective, says in section 2, subsection II:

"No corporation chartered under this chapter shall be authorized to exercise the power of eminent domain for the purpose of taking and condemning lands or other property for its uses, until it shall have first proceeded before the State Corporation Commission and obtained a certificate that the public convenience or necessity require the construction of its proposed line or works."

If this means anything, it means that the right to exercise the power of eminent domain, which is the very breath of life to a railroad corporation, is not given as was the intention of the Constitutional Convention to all and any citizens who complied with the general requirements as provided by the Legislature, but is made dependent upon the judgment and will of the Corporation Commission. There is no natural and resident power in government greater than the taking of private property for public use by the exercise of the right of eminent domain. We do not see how the courts could hold that the delegation of such power to a body acting in a judicial capacity would be other than the giving of authority in the matter of granting or amending or extending charters to any tribunal or officer, except in a ministerial capacity, which is especially and directly prohibited by the Constitution in section 154, which we have already cited.

If there is a reasonable doubt as to the constitutionality of the right to exercise eminent domain under the authority given to the Corporation Commission by House bill 102, is it likely that new railroads desiring to come into Virginia would pay the costs of survey and the other charges incident to the beginning of such an undertaking with the possibility staring them in the face of the act under which they were to acquire their road bed being held unconstitutional? Nothing is more timid than capital, and few things can be more desirable to Virginia than capital invested in developing railroads, but if we are to have such doubts as those which must inevitably occur to any one who reads the section on eminent domain in House bill 102, in the light of our Constitution, we cannot believe that railroads will expose themselves to the certain risk of litigation for the doubtful advantage to be gained by starting a new enterprise.

It would be a very simple matter to pass a general railroad law, as was obviously the intention of the Constitution, one that would safeguard the interest of the public, and at the same time offer a reasonable opportunity for capital desiring to undertake such an enterprise, but to leave matters as they are is to build a Chinese wall around Virginia railroads. Those that are here can build

branch lines under their charters, but we may rest secure in the assurance that no new roads will endeavor to come in. Is this for the good of the Commonwealth?

THE INCOME TAX.

The Rockbridge County News reproduces a part of an editorial in this paper on the income tax, adding the following comment:

We conclude with The Times-Dispatch that it is not so much the fault of the tax-payers and the commission of the revenue, though they are not exempt as of the statute which does not through proper methods force the meaning of the law upon the attention of both. The consequence is that there are very few tax-payers who make any returns of income. They are a scrupulously conscientious class, who before signing the return as a matter of conscience give a general report of property liable for assessment carefully scan the questions and explanations thereon and ascertain whether they are telling the truth in signing the paper. Many of these men, by putting down some return of income. There is another class, the helpless, represented by administrators, curators and guardians, bound by law to make a return to the special assessing officer appointed for this purpose, who gets an extra big commission for his work. This class, the helpless, pay full income tax, and what is more, they do not denigrate the too scrupulously honest, are also mulcted.

Our Richmond contemporary covers the ground completely when it says the law is a reproach to the State. Ordinary decency requires that the Legislature and the State officers make it apply to all or the Legislature repeal it.

We wish that the press generally would take up this question and discuss it, for it is one of the most interesting and important of all questions in connection with our tax system. Each editor in Virginia could easily obtain a copy of the Auditor's report by applying for it, and by giving a little attention to the report he will see that the statements which we have made concerning the income tax are true.

The fatal defect in the law is the exemption clause. That exemption of \$500 a year covers a multitude of sins, and furnishes the loop-hole for many an escape.

First of all, the corporations, except the railroad corporations, are entirely exempt from anything like an income tax, and that is all wrong. Why should not the corporations, as well as individuals, pay an income tax? Everybody knows that in many instances the physical property of a corporation does not begin to represent its assets. If so, how is it that the capitalization generally far exceeds the sum total of physical property valuation? Under the modern rule corporations are not capitalized according to their property holdings, but according to their earning capacity. Why should they not be taxed by the same rule? If a Virginia corporation has property valued at \$500,000, and in the year 1903 shows net earnings of a million dollars, is it right that the corporation should pay taxes on a half million dollars only? If an individual has an income of a million dollars, he is expected to pay taxes on that sum, less his exemption of \$500. Why, then, should a corporation with an income of a million pay nothing?

The corporations should pay on their income. It is the only fair way of taxing them, and it is the only sure way. It is nonsense to exempt the corporation and then go chasing after the stockholders. The way to tax the stockholders is to tax the corporation on its income, and then to tax each stockholder on his income. If that rule were adopted the State would get its dues, and there could be no complaint on the score of double taxation. Then if the State would tax all incomes, making no exemption in any case, the problem would be solved. We do not wish to see any man oppressed, but it does seem to us that every citizen of Virginia should pay something in the way of taxes, and we know of no fairer basis of taxation than a man's income. If a man possesses a piece of real estate, and for one reason or another he is unable to find a tenant for it, he has to pay taxes whether he receives revenue from it or not, and if he falls behind by and by his property is put up and sold for the benefit of the State. In vain will he plead that he has no income from the property, and that he is unable to pay the tax. The State exacts the last penny even to the forfeiture of the property.

But no such plea can be made in the case of an income tax. Every man who has an income can afford to pay something for the privilege of living in the State, for the protection which he receives, and for the benefits generally of citizenship. Under the present law every person whose income does not exceed \$500 a year is exempt from the income tax. But would it be a great hardship upon persons whose incomes are as much as \$500 to pay forty cents on the hundred to the State. If the income is small the income tax is also small. The man with an income of \$500 would pay only \$2.40 a year to the State, or twenty cents a month. The man with an income of \$100 would pay forty cents a year, or a little more than three cents a month, and so on. This tax would fall lightly on the great majority of people, yet it would give the State an abundant revenue and probably enable her to reduce the general levy. There are hundreds and thousands of young men in Virginia who make at least six hundred dollars a year, and who pay no taxes whatever, because they do not happen to own any taxable property. Many of these do not even pay the capitation tax. But if there is a widow owning a little house and home or a few four per cent bonds, the State lays its hands upon her pittance and takes a part of it, while the young man who earns a good salary goes free.

The public burden should be borne by the public, each person bearing his just part, and each corporation bearing its part. No more, no less. When that rule is adopted we shall have a tax system based upon science and equity.

JUDGE CAMPBELL'S CASE.

Our neighbor, The Times-Dispatch, is taking on itself unnecessary trouble because of Judge Campbell's accusations that the Richmond newspapers have treated him unfairly. The natural tendency of human nature is to look on our own side of the case. The truth is that Richmond newspapers have been elaborately and carefully polite and fair in their treatment of Judge Campbell, but in the position naturally is abnormally sensitive, eager for help and comfort and resentful of everything likely to

injure him, even if it is an unquestionable fact. Nothing is more pitiful, and perhaps more ludicrous, than a naked, bald fact. Judge Campbell's opinion of the newspapers and of his enemies is exactly what we expect. It is an inevitable part of the game, and accords with the rules of the play—Richmond News Leader.

That is the one point upon which The Times-Dispatch is sensitive. We believe that fairness is the religion of honest journalism, and it is our endeavor to keep this newspaper above suspicion on that score. We do not pretend to be always right, but we do strive to be always fair, and it is a distress when any charge of unfairness is brought against The Times-Dispatch. We have been endeavoring to disabuse Judge Campbell's mind. We are trying to show him that we have been fair in dealing with his case, fairer than the newspaper over which he presides. We are trying to show him that we have given both sides, and not only one side, as his paper has done.

We have not persecuted him, as he seems to think. We have not called upon the Legislature to convict him, as his paper has charged. We have simply urged the members all to be in their seats when the voting time comes, and vote their honest sentiments.

We renew that suggestion to-day. This is a serious question for the House to decide, and there ought to be a full and courageous expression of opinion. That is all we ask.

A STOCK-TRADER'S PANIC.

The stock traders of Wall Street have been in a state of nervous prostration for some time past, and prices of nearly all classes of securities have tumbled. Various causes are assigned for this state of things, the principal factors being, as alleged, the scarcity of money and the over-production of securities. It is said that the various trusts of the country have been manufacturing securities at such a lively rate as to make the demand greater than the supply; that the country is unable to absorb these securities, and so prices even of good securities are forced down.

There is doubtless some truth in these statements, but be it remembered that this is mainly a Wall Street affair. There is certainly nothing, so far as we can see in the signs of the times, to indicate a termination of our season of prosperity.

The annual report of the United States Steel Corporation, while showing some falling off in earnings for the past quarter, due, it is claimed, to lack of transportation facilities, nevertheless shows that the affairs of the company are in a most prosperous condition; that the earnings are enormous, and that trade is most active. The tonnage of unfilled orders on the books at the close of 1903 was 5,317,253 tons of all kinds of manufactured products, against 4,497,749 tons at the corresponding period of 1901, and it is stated that in many of the classes of heavy products, like rails, plates and structural materials, practically the entire capacity of the mills is sold nearly to the end of 1903.

The New York Commercial says that representatives of steel rail manufacturing concerns admit that the amount of business already booked is so large as to make it impossible to complete their deliveries during the current year, so that a considerable tonnage will have to be carried over into 1904.

A representative of a large steel rail plant had the following to say: "Notwithstanding the business already booked, the demand continues unabated. The capacity of our mills is inadequate for the consumption, and it looks as though a number of railroads, that have not already done so, would have to go abroad for their rails."

"The street railway and interurban systems of the country are large contributors to the demand. They are now using 60 and 80 pound rails, and this makes it more difficult to fill their orders. Next year the production will be larger, as the Lackawanna Steel Company will be ready to contribute something like 600,000 tons to the output. The mills so far have been handicapped by short supplies of fuel, due to the overtaxed condition of the railroads."

"Section on prices will be taken for several months, but I believe a unanimous vote will be given in favor of continuing the present schedule."

There was recently a cut in the price of pig iron, but this was made necessary because the price had gotten so high that the foreigners were able to come in, in spite of the tariff, and compete in this market. But from all that we can gather there is no decrease in the demand for iron and iron products.

Now, let us look for a moment at railroad earnings. The New York Central reports an increase of \$1,103,000 for the month of March. For the fourth week in March the Missouri-Pacific reported an increase of \$310,000; the Southern Railway an increase of \$103,000; Norfolk and Western an increase of \$111,000; Chesapeake and Ohio an increase of \$71,300; Missouri, Kansas and Texas an increase of \$59,000. For the month of March, Missouri Pacific reports an increase of \$40,000; Chesapeake and Ohio an increase of \$41,000; Norfolk and Western an increase of \$43,400.

Speaking of other day of the earnings of the Big Four Road, President Ingalls said that it was the greatest year the system had ever known. "It has been a remarkable season," he added, "and the business has all been carried at tariff rates. It was an easy business. It just came, and all we have had to do has been to add up the cash. We are entirely over the congestion, although that does not mean that we are not still filled up with business. Every piece of equipment is moving at top speed. The business is of the kind that railroad men used to dream of, and its reality is indeed very gratifying."

There are no better indications of the general business of the country than the earnings of iron-producing concerns and railroads. It has become an axiom that "iron is the barometer of trade," and as for the railroads, they deal with the whole country and with all departments of trade and industry, and their earnings indicate the state of trade generally.

During the past year our export trade amounted to nearly \$500,000,000, being

three times as great as that of 1890, and the reports show a steady increase in exports during the present year. That is also a healthy sign of the times.

We do not mean to write a boom article. It may be that the tide has turned and that we are passing out of a season of prosperity into a season of adversity. Wall Street discounts everything. This depression in Wall Street may be the forerunner of hard times to come. Our only contention is that so far as the general trade of the country is concerned it was never better, and the simple fact that Wall Street is pressed for money, in spite of the fact that there is more money in the country than ever before shows that the capital of the country is actively employed in trade and industry.

Baltimore's bachelor Mayor promised to get married if re-elected. He will not have to wed. He was defeated at the primary election held on Tuesday. He can now stay single as long as he wishes to, but the office he holds he will have to surrender to another.

The vote in the primary resulted in Mc Lane carrying twenty out of twenty-four wards. His plurality was 5,454, four candidates being in the field. Mayor Hayes ran second. Mr. Hooper was nominated for Comptroller and Mr. Guyton for the presidency of the Second Branch. It was an "organization" victory.

At the same primary and at the same voting place, and under the same judges of election, the Republicans nominated their candidates, Wachtel winning in the mayoralty fight.

The regular election will take place in May, and it remains to be seen whether the friction in the Democratic ranks, which manifested itself in the primary campaign, will be smoothed over by that time or not. We think it will all come right, but the leaders of the party in Baltimore would do well to be on their guard.

We have seen no summing of the workings of Baltimore's new primary election system. Perhaps it is too early to review its operations with judicial calmness. Certainly, it would seem that the organization Democrats have no cause to complain of it.

International courtesy is just a trifle worse than senatorial courtesy when it presumes to call down a successful American sailor for boasting over the superiority of the American navy.

Last year Andrew Carnegie gave to the cause of education over \$30,000,000. His known gifts to this cause so far foot up \$37,212,323, but it is believed that the grand aggregate is somewhere near \$100,000,000.

Some Washington colored folks are endeavoring to throw a few thorns and bribe bottles in the pathway of Judge Jeter C. Pritchard.

Carter Harrison seems to be one of the permanent fixtures in the Chicago Mayor's office.

Norfolk makes a poor show at proving the act on the Sunday liquor sellers. They are a sharp set.

As a growing candidate, President Ingalls, of Cincinnati, was nipped in the early bud.

Later returns from the contest between Jack Frost and the fruit crop are more favorable to the fruit.

President Roosevelt is making all sorts of speeches, but then he is meeting all sorts of delegations.

The growing navies of the country seem to have a tendency to keep The Hague idle.

Newport News finds it hard to get rid of that sweet box sensation.

Nevertheless, Dewey is liable to fire again when he is ready.

It is an ill wind that blows no fire to do a town good.

Trend of Thought in Dixie Land

Atlanta Journal: The names of Tillman, Bacon, Clark and Elliott remind one that it will not be such a great length of time before the Corbett-Jeffries fight and the extra session of Congress.

Columbus (Ga.) Enquirer-Sun: The New York World firmly believes that Grover Cleveland could lick Teddy out of his boots next year. Somebody certainly ought to, and if Cleveland is the only man who can do the job right, he should by all means be put up.

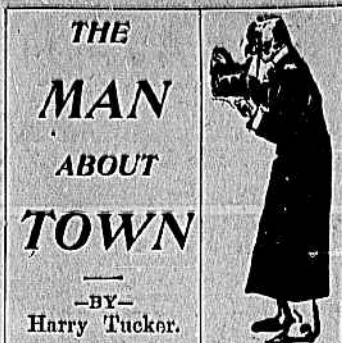
Nashville News: Southern chivalry can find no more fitting field for its operations in these days of the farm and in lightning the burden of the feminine farm-worker, as far as possible, by modern contrivance and invention, and it can accomplish greater things than was possible in the days of courtly bows and exaggerated compliment.

Montgomery Advertiser: The Macon Telegraph thinks that "Mr. Bryan is getting to be a freeman, he is absurd," and all because the Nebraskaan imagines himself the only genuine, warranted-to-fade harmony tooter in the whole country.

Columbia State: Now that an inventor has discovered a method of burning water, what are the prohibitionists going to do about it? Firewater! Heavens!

Galveston News: If Mr. Cleveland has made any dates for speaking on his Western trip the papers have failed to print his cancellation of any of them, and we have to depend on the word of the writer of this piece, touching the sliding of the earth on the south side of Libya's Hill, at that time. The movement of a considerable area of the ground toward the sea is a fact, and it is a fact, but no fissures have occurred, and that which was on Libya's Hill in 1853, viz: That the soil, or first stratum of the earth, rested upon a solid formation, or sort of conical stone, and when that was removed, the earth, having thoroughly saturated the looser mass, resting upon this formation, and not sinking into the harder surface below, naturally caused the eight or ten feet of land above to slide.

P. B. PRICE.



THE MAN ABOUT TOWN
—BY—
Harry Tucker.

DAILY CALENDAR.
1903—Tried to loop the loop on the Traction line.
1903—Scheme wouldn't work.
N. B.—In the language of the Count, it's a long time that has no turn.

With frost upon the "house-tops,"
And the gutter full of ice,
We think a place beside the fire
Is as cozy and so nice.
We so love to sit beside her
On a cozy and so nice night,
And the snow and slush and shivers,
Come to us as our delight.

Master Claiborne Epps told us a story the other day as we went against the dry-goods counter and smoked our Beesie Abbot cigar, that we think was real good. It dwelt upon a subject uppermost in the minds of the people, and every move was a picture.

Master Claiborne always was good at telling stories.

He can stand in a crowd any time, and spin more yarns than a sailor, and he can keep the crowd interested to a high degree. We love to hear him talk, and always was.

But we had a bad cold in our head when he was telling the story, and we can't think just at this time what it was all about.

We are going to see him again, and get him to tell it to us over again.

Mr. Bonavita, the lion tamer at Bonavita's, has had some poetry written about him by Miss Jessie Hawley Lowell.

We have almost felt like writing some poetry about him, but we are glad to give away to Miss Lowell, and let her have it.

P'fessor Jack, the tamer, he 'S just as brave as he can be, 'N' though the animals roar and rage, P'fessor goes right in the cage! He ain't afraid of 'em at all; Just cracks his whip 'n' gives a call; He yells and he screams and he roars, Or scrooch all scared upon the ground. The lion 'n' the goat the tawny mane, A dozen cocky men has slain! O' course, they never would attack. The brave and kind P'fessor Jack.

"Hey, diddle, diddle, Moses Stein with his fiddle, Sits down in the glare of the light; And Leo Wise, With a wink in his eyes, Stands out in front every night."

That beautiful verse was sent us by some one unknown to us. We've seen but one thing in it, and that is an ulterior motive.

Everybody knows what an ulterior motive is.

It's one of those things that come to a fellow who wants to get something for nothing, and while we don't think much of such things as ulterior motives, we feel inclined to think that the party who wrote it wants Moses Stein to play for the chief, and wants Leo Wise to give him a pass.

But it gives us great pleasure to inform the person with the ulterior motive that Master Charlie Rex, is the main guy.

A FEW FOREIGN FACTS.

The Czar of Russia intends to supplement the reforms he has just announced by abolishing the punishment of political prisoners by exile to Siberia.

A daughter of Thackeray, a son of Dickens, and a grandson of Bulwer-Lytton will be among the guests at the coming jubilee of the Manchester, England, Free Library.

Casimir, the famous chef of the Malsen Doree of Paris, has expressed his scorn for all kings and most great men, declaring that they do not know how to eat in these degenerate days. The King of Portugal he holds up as a grand exception. The last time Carlos dined under Casimir's direction he sent for the chef, and, "and," declares the cook with much emotion, "he kissed me on both cheeks and with tears in his eyes assured me that it was not a dinner, but a creation."

In Berlin the average income is higher than in London. The medical profession. Eight per cent. of the barristers and 4.7 per cent. of the medical men have incomes from 15,000 to 20,000 marks (\$3,750 to \$5,000), while 8 per cent. of the barristers and 7 per cent. of the medical men have incomes exceeding \$5,000.

Gustav Storm, whose death was recently noted, was one of the most distinguished historical critics of Europe. In 1877 he was elected professor of history in the University of Christiania. Among his original works are a critical history of the Vikings and a great general history of Norway.

President Kruger will leave Monteno, Italy, for Holland, at the end of April. He is in excellent health.

When Mrs. Ellen M. Stone finishes her lecture course this spring, begun last week, she will have spoken before 149 audiences about her experiences in Macedonia.

The new England Society of the Oranges and the Woman's Club, of Orange, N. J., have jointly arranged with Booker T. Washington to speak in Orange in the near future in reply to recent alleged incendiary utterances.

Professor Raphael Pumpelly, the geologist and author, has started for Turkey under the auspices of the Carnegie Institute, Washington, to see whether the region offers a promising field for the study of the relation between measurable physical and ethnographic changes, and for archaeological research in connection therewith.

The shortest biography in the new Congressional Directory is that of Congressman Byrd, of the Fifth Mississippi District. It is as follows: "Adam Byrd, Democrat, was elected to the Fifty-eighth Congress, receiving 3,681 votes."

Peter De Villa, the discover of gold in the Klondike region, and once fabulously rich, is now earning a livelihood by nailing boxes at the Ben Lemon wineery at Santa Cruz, Cal. He has a suit of clothes made by one of the richest mines in the Nome region, but has no means with which to prosecute it, and the case is likely to go against him by default.

THE KIDNAPING OF THE BADGER

Romance of the Kidnaping of a Governor-General.

Copyright, by PHILIP LITTLE.

As they ran alone in the smooth, but rapidly flowing water, the boat could be distinctly seen below them, and it was very plain that what the fisherman had said was correct. Then the little craft's prow was put about, and she was headed up the harbor again.

"It is a strong current!" exclaimed the captain. "You see that she makes but little headway against it at present."

"The stronger the better," said Campbell. "It will take just so much less time to clear a way for you to get out of the harbor."

"True. But I should say that it would have to clear at least ten feet before we can think of it, and then, if we do not know what we are doing, we may find outside."

"Keep her head off for the large palm on the starboard bow and you will clear the strength of it. As for the water outside of the bar, that is deep enough for any vessel afloat."

"That is just what may bring another ship in there, and at present I do not care for a visitor of any kind," was the reply.

"The chances are very few of such a case happening," said the man.

"Possibly, but it will be just our luck to have one come in," replied the captain with a furrowed brow.

"The launch was now making for the head of the harbor, and nearing the palm which marked the narrow entrance to the Blue Pool, which had afforded them such a safe asylum during the hurricane."

"There!" cried the old man, with outstretched arms, "there is the outlet to the sea!"

They all looked toward the point indicated, and there in the land, where before there had been but a mass of trees, was a wide rift, narrow in the center, and showing the open sea beyond.

"So near, and yet so far!" growled Brent, as he bent his eyes on the blue water beyond.

"Stop her!" he exclaimed suddenly, as they were headed toward the opening. The launch slowed up, and he took his glasses from the seat beside him and looked down on the distant horizon.

"Smoke! Smoke of a steamer!" he cried. "It'll be that ship coming to this harbor. It will be just my confounded luck!" he added, suppressing an oath.

"You speak as if you were good enough," said Fitzmorris. "I don't think that you have any cause for complaint."

Brent was silent for a minute or two, and then he struck his knee sharply with his hand.

"What a Jewel!" he shouted. "What an idea!"

"What is it?" demanded Lord George and the others.

"Never mind now, but it is a good one. It is a laugh at the expense of the harbor, the sooner the better. She will be more than welcome!"

The sudden change in his manner mystified them all, but he would vouchsafe no explanation further than to say:

"Her honor, let her come! Let her come! And every now and then she smote his knee and laughed."

Little was said on the way back to the Badger, excepting when the harbor master pointed out to Madeline, for whom he seemed to have taken a great fancy, some peculiarity of the scenery along the shore. After they were all on the deck of the schooner, more, Lassie took Brent aside and said:

"Captain, I do not know what plan you may have in mind, but you can trust my father and me to help you without a thought of betrayal. And if, when you leave you will take us away with you, and give us a chance to get some other place in which to live, we shall be more than grateful. We hate this island and its people, since they have started to make a government of their own. Before this, while it was under the Spanish rule, we were at least left alone, but now we are hounded for taxes, which are used only to fill the pockets of some dishonest man. If we could only get away, they can get but they take all that they can lay their hands upon."

"Before I say anything upon the subject, Lassie, tell me one thing. You speak most excellent English. Where did you learn to do so?"

"I do not wonder that you ask, and I will gladly explain. There was an Englishman and his wife who lived here and had large colonies of slaves. Before this, when the blacks took the island into their hands they tried to make Mr. Renford join them. When he would not, they murdered him and his wife, and then they came over here. I have never been so happy since that happened as I was when I heard that you had attacked the fort and killed some of them. I will do anything that I can to help you, and so will my father."

"I am satisfied now, and we will hold a council of war. Let us all go to the cabin," he asked, joining the others.

"I have something which I wish to communicate to you."

"Before we go let me have a few words with you in private," said Fitzmorris.

"Very well, come with me. When we have finished, I will turn to